Daily Mirror {Main} Source: Edition: Country: UK Date: Tuesday 15, August 2017 Page: 18 164 sq. cm Area: ABC 640747 Daily Circulation: Ad data: page rate £29,000.00, scc rate £112.00 Phone: 020 7293 3000 Hull City of Culture Keyword:



Art attack over sign Culture project shows rude messages

BY LUCY THORNTON

AN art installation has sparked a flood of complaints after flashing up rude messages.

The City Speaks, a project on

Hull's tidal barrier, converts what people say on a microphone on the dockside into scrolling text.

But locals said software is failing to filter out offensive words from mickey-takers.

Messages on the panel, part of Hull's City of CURSED Panel on tidal barrier <u>Culture</u> year, have

included "send nudes" and "big hairy man hammock". Vicky

Owens, 34, said: "It said 'ejaculation', then all sorts. It was bizarre. 'You have to admit it's funny. But

if I have my kids with me, it becomes a different issue." Ben McKnight, communications

> director for Hull 2017, said: "There is a filter in place to block offensive words."

Andrew Knight, who curated the city's Look Up project, said at the launch of The City Speaks in February: "As time goes on, the software will get

better. But we trust the people of Hull to use this as intended."

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